GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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A BONTOC IGOROT POTTER

This picture (much reduced in size from that in Pictorial Geography set) gives a clearer idea of an important industry, the tools used, the costumes worn, and the care given to children in this Philippine tribe than would many paragraphs of text or lengthy verbal explanation. Moreover, it leaves the pupil asking questions—ready then to listen to description, or eager to read about native life and customs (See Bulletin No. 2).

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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Bucharest, "Little Paris of the Balkans"

THE far-reaching fingers of the world's telephone systems have added Rumania to the long list of places that may be called from the telephone instrument in your home. Washington and Bucharest are almost 5,000 miles apart, but residents of the two capitals can now converse as easily—albeit more expensively—as people in adjoining houses.

Bucharest, the Rumanian capital, is often referred to as "The Little Paris of the Balkans,"—a fitting compliment, because Bucharest has many of the earmarks of the French metropolis.

People Are Gay, and Smartly Dressed

One of its wide tree-lined thoroughfares is called "Little Champs Elysées" and there is an Arc de Triomphe, both of which suggest the atmosphere of Paris. The bridle paths flanking the thoroughfare constantly resound with the thud of hoofs of blooded horses, mounted by smart-looking beaux and belles; and the seemingly endless mass of pedestrians strolls in a gay mood with no apparent destination.

Here, and on other fine thoroughfares lined with palatial residences and fine church and government buildings, a sad countenance is out of place. However, this portion of the city has no corner on smiles, for the doorways of the humblest Bucharest homes in the cobbled by-ways of the poorer section of the city are filled with smiling, chattering parents, while their "ragamuffins" boisterously run here and there playing Rumanian games. The meat-seller, with whole slaughtered animals swinging on the end of a long pole, venders of sweet meats, and even some of the multitude of beggars are a cheerful lot.

Bucharest impresses the traveler from the time he emerges from one of its modern hotels downtown. Shops as fine as can be found in most capitals of the world line the business streets. Behind large plate glass windows the American traveler finds such familiar articles as American-made flashlights, radios and phonographs.

American Automobiles Fill Streets

It is not necessary to find an automobile salesroom where American automobiles are on display. The streets are full of them. In front of a hotel or business building six to eight out of a dozen automobiles are popular American makes, and across the street a bill-board is plastered with an advertisement of a popular car made in Michigan. The doorways of the large movie or cinema houses display bright-colored advertisements with the names of American actresses emblazoned in large letters.

The automobile has not yet driven the old Bucharest victoria from the streets, and travelers frequently prefer to see the city behind two sleek, coal-black, high-stepping horses, driven by a native coachman whose long, well-trimmed beard hides his thick neck and a large part of the front of his voluminous velvet coat. Although they do not speak English, Bucharest "cabbies" are accustomed to driving foreigners. They wrap a sash about their waists with the two ends hanging over the back of the seat. A tug on the right end signals that the vistor desires a right turn; a tug on the left end signals a turn to the left.

Throughout the city one notices the prevalence of Paris fashions, with a sprinkling of nattily-clad Rumanian military officers. Now and then a gyspy, in a costume including all the colors of the rainbow, recalls that Rumania is the home

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ROME, THE ETERNAL CITY, SHOWING THE VATICAN PALACE AND GARDENS

Just left of the center of this aerial picture the magnificent St. Peter Basilica, the world's largest church, stands out with startling clearness; directly before it is St. Peter's Place, and to the right, in part of the long building with several courts, is the Vatican library, the roof of which recently collapsed (See Bulletin No. 4).

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Geographic Illustrations Made Available for Schools

"How can we obtain National Geographic Society pictures in loose-leaf form for classroom use?"

"Are the remarkable illustrations in the *National Geographic Magazine* available in sets arranged by subjects for teaching?"

"Can photographs of the National Geographic Society be obtained with text explanations in the vocabularies of various grades?"

Hundreds of requests of these kinds have led the officers of the National Geographic Society to make available its entire series of six Pictorial Geography sets to schools for a price below the cost of the sets, as another of The Society's contributions to teaching geography.

Each of the Pictorial Geography sets contains 48 pictures—288 pictures in the series of six sets—each picture a photographic reproduction on sturdy, durable paper, 11 by 9 inches in size, accompanied by about 200 words of interesting, informative text, explaining the geographic significance of the illustration.

Photographs Teach When Words Fail

These 288 picture sheets and 288 narratives of the peoples, products, industries, physical features and the work and play activities of major regions of the earth fit courses of study, make geography study a delight, supply sand table material and wall decorations, and teach at a glance definitions which are difficult to impart by abstract words.

The titles of the sets indicating the organization of this library of geographic pictures, are:

1. Eskimo Life—Sahara Life
2. The Indian in America—The Negro in Africa
3. Life in China—The Hill Tribes of the Philippines
4. The Land, the Water, the Air
5. The United States
6. Italy

Until further notice these six Pictorial Geography sets—these 288 world-revealing photographs and the 288 vivid geographic narratives—may be had for $3.50 by teachers and schools.

The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational body, incorporated as a non-commercial institution, for the increase and diffusion of geographic knowledge. The *National Geographic Magazine* is more widely used, and bound for reference, by schools, than any other periodical. The Society's officers make available to schools, as the need is shown, other supplementary material, such as the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS, and now the compilation of photographs, arranged by subjects, and printed on durable loose-leaf sheets, in the Pictorial Geography sets.

A Further Contribution to Education

The BULLETINS represent a gift to American education, teachers being required to pay only the cost of mailing the thirty weekly issues. The Pictorial

of the wandering tribes of Romany. Many of the Bucharest gypsies live in small huts just outside of the town. When a gypsy man works, which is as seldom as possible, he is usually employed as a mason on building construction jobs. He takes his wife along with him to mix his mortar and to act as hod carrier.

Derbies, Fez-Shaped Hats and Shawls

In the market place, the traveler gets a glimpse of the rural folk who cluster about stands of vegetables which they bring to the city from the rolling farm land near-by. Here the men seem to display no particular type of costume, most of them wearing European coats and trousers, and there are as many derbies as there are caps and soft hats and fez-shaped woolen head coverings.

On the other hand, the women folk blaze forth in bright-colored shawls which cover the head and shoulders, and aprons with stripes of a half dozen unblending colors. Their dresses are just short enough to reveal in the summer time that all feet are not shod.

Note: For supplementary reading see also: "The Danube, Highway of Races," *National Geographic Magazine*, December, 1929; "Transylvania and Its Seven Castles," March, 1926; "The Whirlpool of the Balkans," February, 1921; and "Rumania and Its Rubicon," September, 1916.

Bulletin No. 1, February 1, 1932.

© *Photograph by Erdelyi*

"HERE COMES THE GROOM"

It is customary in the Transylvania section of Rumania for nearly all the young people in a village to take part in wedding ceremonies and festivities. The young men are seen taking the bridegroom to the house of the bride, followed by musicians. The women, bringing up the rear, are carrying food for the marriage feast, one basket being piled high with waferlike plum cakes.

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Mozambique, Vasco da Gama's Accidental but Rich Discovery

WITH the opening of the new Benguela Railway, and the extension of the Chemin de Fer du Katanga to meet it at Luao, Africa now has a transcontinental railway. Travelers and freight can to-day short-cut around the southern third of the Dark Continent in luxurious trains composed of up-to-date sleeping cars and dining cars from Lobito, in Angola, on the Portuguese West African coast, to Beira, in Mozambique, on the Portuguese East African coast.

The new route fulfills the dreams of former Portuguese explorers and administrators, despite the fact that its central links traverse Belgian Congo and parts of Northern and Southern Rhodesia, which sectors are owned and operated by Belgian and British companies.

Twelve Times as Large as Mother Country

Mozambique, at the eastern end of the new railway, spreads for more than 1,400 miles along Africa's east coast opposite the huge island of Madagascar. It has been a Portuguese colony since a few years after Vasco da Gama visited the region in 1498, while sailing to India.

Gama found Arabs in control of Mozambique trade, but in the next decade the Portuguese had built their trade "fences" for permanent ownership. The colony is more than twelve times the size of Portugal, with about 2,000,000 fewer inhabitants than the European Republic.

The Mozambique coast line is dotted with cities and towns. Lourenco Marques, situated near the southern end of the colony, is the capital and largest city. When the traveler walks down the gang plank to its modern dock he may easily imagine himself arriving at a larger European port, except, perhaps, that Mozambique is a land of dark-brown and black-skinned people who make up about 90 per cent of its population.

The docks can accommodate sixteen ocean-going ships at a time. They are equipped with electric lights for twenty-four-hour service. Cargo-handling devices that form a harbor skyline can swing a railroad locomotive from a ship's deck to dock with the same efficiency that they deposit a sack of Mozambique sugar in the hold of an outgoing ship.

Mozambique City on an Island

The city's palatial residences, handsome business buildings and imposing government buildings flank wide, shaded boulevards and frame tree-studded squares. Its beaches attract thousands of vacationists from South Africa, with which it is connected by rail, and from remote districts of Mozambique. The capital already has an airplane landing field and awaits development of East African air routes.

Beira owes its importance to its fine harbor and the fact that it is the eastern terminus of two railroads, one of which forms part of the trans-continental route. Mozambique city, situated on an island off the coast, was the old capital, and now is the leading port of the northern portion of the colony. It is also a stepping stone to Madagascar. While trade flows into each of these ports by rail, road and river, both also handle a large volume of exports and imports for smaller coastal towns which are not equipped to accommodate large vessels.

Eleven thousand miles of good roads form a network over the colony, touching nearly every important town. There are more than 1,000 miles of railroads located

Geography sets are offered at less than cost—at a price only a fraction more than a cent per picture—as a further contribution to teaching.

The photographs are selected from The Society's unparalleled collection of geographic photographs—the world's foremost picture gallery of geography, wherein many single photographs cost almost as much to obtain as the purchase price of an Old Master. The collection represents years of research and photographic surveys, into every phase of world life on land and sea, always with a view to portraying the distinctive, the typical, the enduring—not the ephemeral or the freakish aspects of other peoples and places.

Having only the desire to furnish schools with its material which would be of service in teaching, The Society has sold separate sets of the Pictorial Geography at cost, that is at $1.50 for a single set of 48 pictures, so that teachers might assess their value in classrooms. They have been found usable, adaptable to courses from coast to coast, and most stimulating in geography study.

Singly, the sets must continue to sell at $1.50. Because of carriage and bookkeeping costs, no proportionate reduction can be made on single sets, or combinations of sets, other than the offer of the entire six sets for $3.50.

The attached form may be used in ordering:

School Service Department,
National Geographic Society,
Washington, D. C.

Kindly send ..... complete series of six Pictorial Geography sets (48 loose-leaf pictures to the set—288 illustrations in all) to:

Name .....

School .....

City ..... State .....

Enclosed please find ..... in payment, at the rate of $3.50 for each of the complete series of 288 illustrations with their accompanying text.

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Libraries in Clay, Wood, Papyrus, Leaves and Paper

COLLAPSE of the roof of the Vatican Library recently in Rome, and the destruction and damaging of valuable manuscripts and books, direct attention to the world's libraries, and how they have guarded mankind's learning through the ages.

China is the birthplace of printing, but libraries were established in China, in the Near East and in Egypt, many centuries before the printed page found its way to the library shelf.

A Hundred Bricks To Tell a Story

Books in the library at Nippur, Babylonia, and other libraries which date farther back in history than 4,000 years ago, were clay tablets. Sometimes it took a hundred "bricks" to tell a story.

Recently an expedition was excavating the ruins of the Babylonian city of Kish, near Baghdad. Leaders of the expedition were about to suspend work.

A superstitious member of the searching party picked up a brick and on it marked an arow. Blindfolding himself, he turned around many times and threw the brick over his head. Digging was begun where the arrow pointed, and in a few hours a "nest" of tablets was unearthed. The library had forty rooms.

Swamp Grass Was Ancient Paper

Tablets were the popular book material until papyrus was pressed into service. Use of marsh grass as paper was developed by the Greeks, and in Roman times there were many varieties. When the Goths invaded Greece they found the Greeks absorbed in building libraries. When the Gothic chiefs found their soldiers about to burn the collections of scrolls, they ordered them to leave the volumes to the Greeks, for hands accustomed to smooth papyrus would be "too feeble" to handle instruments of war.

A portion of a great Greek library at Alexandria, Egypt, was destroyed when Julius Caesar set fire to the shipping in the harbor. To make up the loss, Mark Antony sent the contents of the huge library of Perganum, in Asia Minor, to Cleopatra.

Libraries were valued highly before the Christian era. Persians took many volumes of the library of Rameses II, established more than 3,300 years ago, when they invaded north Africa.

Library of Wooden Blocks

King Matthias Corvinus of Hungary established a library in the fifteenth century, but its collection of more than 50,000 manuscripts, probably the largest and finest of its kind ever made in Europe, was scattered to the four corners of Europe when the Turks rifled the rich halls it occupied in the castle of Buda.

For centuries the Arabs have favored libraries of loose-leaf volumes. Their books, consisting largely of works on theology, jurisprudence, and philology, are usually in mosques, just as the libraries before the Christian era were often located in temples.

In Tibet, writings were printed from blocks or written by hand. Buddhist scriptures in Siam were written with brass or iron styles upon palm leaves and each leaf wrapped in yellow cloth or silk.

World's Largest Libraries

From the clay tablet collections, libraries have developed into treasuries of printed pages. The Bibliothèque Nationale, in Paris, with more than 5,000,000

where they can best promote commerce. Vast areas in the southern portion of the colony are devoted to banana, cotton and sugar cultivation; tobacco, sisal, coffee and tea thrive on plantations in the central regions. The northern third of the colony is a land of coconuts and various kinds of oil nuts.

A Source of Cashew Nuts

Sisal constitutes one-eighth of Mozambique's export. Trace the origin of the cashew nuts one buys at American confectionery counters and you may find that they grew in Mozambique and found their way to American markets by way of India. Millions of pounds of peanuts are shipped from Mozambique's ports to Europe.

Mozambique has its mountains, several peaks of which rise more than 5,000 feet, but there are few spots in the colony that are not ready for the farmer's plow. There are no deserts; dark, sunless jungles; broad, jagged mountain spurs; and few swamps.

The natives are nearly all Bantus, but tribal customs vary throughout the colony. A handsome beau of one tribe may wear a wooden disc as large as a saucer in his lower lip, while his neighbor prefers adorning his body with welts formed by applying mud to open wounds. Piercing the septums of their noses with wooden pegs, hanging heavy trinkets to the ear lobes so that the ears are drawn out of shape, and tattooing, and filing teeth into points also are some of the tribal beauty treatments.

Note: The story of Mozambique's discovery and development is told in greater detail in "The Pathfinder of the East," *National Geographic Magazine*, November, 1927. For additional reading about South Africa see: "Under the South African Union," April, 1931; "Keeping House for the 'Shepherds of the Sun,'" April, 1930; and "Through the Deserts and Jungles of Africa by Motor," June, 1926.

Bulletin No. 3, February 1, 1932.

© *Photograph by Edgar S. Aldrich*

SUGAR-CANE IS THE "CANDY" OF MOZAMBIQUE

The name Mozambique, first given a town on a coral isle in Mossoril Bay, now extends to all of Portuguese East Africa. It was discovered by Vasco da Gama in 1498, and later a fort was built with walls 70 feet high, all of stone brought from Portugal. This native market is in the town of Mozambique.

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The Woodchuck, an Unofficial Weather Forecaster

THE woodchuck, or, to call him by his better known name, the ground hog, has intrenched himself so firmly in the country lore of the Eastern States that he has been given a place with the Saints on the calendar. In honor of this curious little fellow the second of February is widely known as "Ground Hog Day."

On this date, it is claimed, the ground hog wakes from his long winter sleep and appears at the mouth of his burrow to survey the weather. If he sees his shadow, bad weather is indicated, and he retires to resume his sleep for another six weeks.

"The woodchuck, or 'ground hog,' is a typical marmot, with coarse hair, heavy body, short neck, bushy tail, powerful legs, and feet armed with strong claws for digging," writes Dr. E. W. Nelson, former chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, in a communication to the National Geographic Society. "Its usual color is brown, but in some districts black individuals are not uncommon.

Found Also in Europe and Asia

"Marmots are common in Europe, Asia, and North America. The group contains many species and geographic races varying in size and color. The Alpine marmot of Europe is probably the most familiar of the Old World species, and the woodchuck the best known in America.

"North America contains several species of marmots, their joint territory extending from coast to coast over the northern parts of the continent and from southern Labrador, the southern shores of Hudson Bay and Great Slave Lake, and central Alaska southward to northern Alabama, and along the high mountains to New Mexico and the southern Sierra Nevada of California. The common woodchuck is well known to every dweller in the countryside of the Eastern States and Canada, where it occurs from sea level to near the tops of the highest mountains, at altitudes of more than 4,000 feet.

"It is a familiar inhabitant of fields and grassy hillsides, especially where bordering woodland offers safe retreat. In such places it digs burrows under stone walls, rocks, ledges, old stumps, or even out in the open grass-grown fields. It commonly lives in the midst of the forest, where its dens are located in a variety of situations. The burrows are marked by little mounds of earth at the entrances and ordinarily contain from 20 to 40 feet of branching galleries, one or more of which end in a rounded chamber about a foot in diameter, well lined with dry grass and leaves.

No Economic Value

"Within these warm nests the females bring forth from three to nine blind and helpless young about the last of April or early in May. A few weeks later the young appear about the entrance of the burrows, sunning themselves and playing with one another, but usually ready to disappear at the first alarm. At times, however, they are surprisingly stupid and may be captured with ease. The woodchuck has practically no economic value. Its flesh, while occasionally eaten, is little esteemed, and its coarsely haired pelts are worthless as fur.

"It is a sluggish and stupid animal, which does not ordinarily go far from its burrow, but at certain seasons, especially in spring, it wanders widely, as though looking over its territory before locating for the summer. It has much curiosity and often sits upright on its hind feet to look about, remaining for a long time as motionless as a statue. When one is driven into its burrow, if a person approaches quietly and whistles, it will often raise its head in the entrance and look about to satisfy its curiosity.

"Its only note is a short, shrill whistle, which it utters explosively at frequent intervals when much alarmed. At such times it also chatters its teeth with a rattling sound, as owls sometimes clatter their beaks.

"Because of its habits, which are mainly diurnal (daytime), and its persistence in living in and about the borders of fields, the woodchuck is among the most widely known of our smaller mammals, and has long been the favorite game of the country boy and his dog. When cornered it will fight savagely and can inflict severe wounds with its strong incisors.

"It feeds on grasses, clover, and other succulent plants, including various cultivated crops, especially vegetables in fields and garden, where it sometimes does much damage. The holes and earth mounds it makes in fields in addition to feeding on and trampling down grasses or grain,

books, 100,000 manuscripts, 1,000,000 prints, and 500,000 maps, is the world's largest library. The British Museum contains the second largest collection, while the Library of Congress, at Washington, with more than 4,000,000 volumes, ranks third.

America's first libraries were private collections of outstanding colonial leaders. In the early part of the eighteenth century, parish libraries for church literature were developing. Benjamin Franklin opened the first subscription library in Philadelphia just 200 years ago.

Interest in libraries so developed in the last century that philanthropists recognized their need. From 1881 to 1917 one American donor gave more than $43,000,000 for library buildings.

An early college library was established at Harvard in 1638. The first public library is accredited to Roman times, but the first tax-supported public library was opened in Salisbury, Connecticut, in 1803. Since then there have been established in the United States nearly 6,500 public, society and school libraries of more than 3,000 volumes. On their shelves are more than 150,000,000 books.

Note: The learning which is so readily available to you in your school or public library has made a precarious journey down through the ages. Some incidents related to the gathering and disseminating of this information are told in the following articles in the *National Geographic Magazine*: "Unearthing America's Ancient History," July, 1931; "New Greece, the Centenarian, Forges Ahead," December, 1930; "New Alphabet of the Ancients Is Unearthed," October, 1930; "New Light on Ancient Ur," January, 1930; "Secret of the Southwest Solved by Talkative Tree Rings," December, 1929; "Oxford, Mother of Anglo-Saxon Learning," November, 1929; "Seeing 3,000 Years of History in Four Hours," December, 1928; "Life Among the Lamas of Choni," and "The World's Greatest Overland Explorer," November, 1928; "Archeology, the Mirror of the Ages," August, 1928; "The Heart of Aymará Land," February, 1927; "Banishing the Devil of Disease Among the Nashi," November, 1924, and "Washington Through the Years," November, 1931.

Bulletin No. 4, February 1, 1932.

© *National Geographic Magazine*

"PARNASSUS ON WHEELS" IN MARYLAND

The Washington County Free Library at Hagerstown, Maryland, has the distinction of founding, in 1902, the first traveling library in America. Stations were established in small towns of the county, supplied with books from a central library, and a book-wagon, which carried nearly a thousand volumes, made regular trips through the county with a house-to-house delivery of books. The idea has spread to many other parts of this country, and to other countries.

excite a strong feeling against it, and farmers everywhere look upon the woodchuck as a nuisance.

"In New Hampshire, so great was the prejudice against these rodents that in 1883 a law was passed placing a bounty of ten cents each on them: '*Provided*, That no bounty shall be paid for any woodchuck killed on Sunday.'

"Unlike many rodents, the woodchuck does not lay up stores of food for winter. As summer draws to an end it feeds heavily and becomes excessively fat. On the approach of cold weather it becomes more and more sluggish, appearing above ground with decreasing frequency until, from the end of September to the first of November, according to locality, it retires to its burrow and begins the long hibernating sleep which continues until the approach of spring."

Note: The National Geographic Society has recently revised and enlarged its popular edition of "Wild Animals of North America," by Dr. E. W. Nelson. This volume, which contains 250 pages of text and illustrations, many in color, and charts showing the tracks or footprints of many common animals, can be obtained only through the headquarters of The Society, Washington, D. C.

Bulletin No. 5, February 1, 1932.

© *Photograph by George Shiras, 3d*

A GOLDEN-MANTLED GROUND HOG LOOKING FOR HIS SHADOW

This Western type of woodchuck is similar in general appearance and habits to the familiar animal of the Eastern States. This one was snapped in Yellowstone Park, Wyoming.